(d) what steps have been taken for the proper exploitation of coal resources in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) As on 1-1-89, the Geological Survey of India has estimated the coal reserves of India at 1,76,330.35 million tonnes consisting of coal seams of 0.5 metre and above in thickness and upto a depth of 1200 metres. The distribution of coal reserves, State-wise, is as under:—

State	Million tonnes
(•) Andhra Pradesh	10086.20
(b) Arunachal Pradesh	, 90 .23
(c) Assam •..	280.03
(d) Bihar .	59132.24
(•) Madhya Pradesh .	28814.61
(f) Maharashtra •	5271.84
(f) Meghalaya . •.	458.94
(h) Nagaland	12.05
(i) Orissa •	41556.64
(i) Uttar Pradesh •	1062.21
(k) West Bengal .	29565.36
TOTAL ,	1,76,330.35

(d) The production of coal by the coal companies is based on the targets set out for them in the various Five Year Plans. The production target for 1989-90 at the end of the Seventh Plan period is 210 million tonnes which implies an annual growth rate of 7.4 percent or about 12 million tonnes each year, on an average during the 7th Plan period. For achieving the production growth envisaged in the Seventh Plan and during subse-' 4uent periods, Government/coal companies have sanctioned so far 13$ projects for an investment of Rs. 3828 crores.

Non-working of Unit-2 of the Hirakud Hydro-Electric Project

588. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Unit-2 of the Hirakud Hydro-electric Project in Orissa is lying out of order since last one year

(b) if so, what are the reasons for which this unit has not been repaired so far; and

(c) what steps have been taken for its repair and by when it would be repaired ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The unit-2 of Hirakud (Chiplima) HE Project is under planned outage with effect from 21-6-1988, for attending to repair of runner chamber.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Prospects of Oil and Gas in the Eastern Region

589. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern region of the country consisting of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura has emerged as an area with brightest prospectst for oil and gas amongst all the existing onshore regions and whether ONGC had decided to attach highest priority to this region;

• (b) of so, what are the details of the prospects as compared to the other existing onshore regions in the country; and